

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TANANA 01470 261119Z

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /019 W
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R 260800Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5727

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 1470

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TSPA, MA
SUBJ: RENEWAL NASA TRACKING STATION AGREEMENT

REFS: A) STATE 206644; B) TANANARIVE 1458

BEGIN SUMMARY: BELIEVE THERE MAY BENREASONABLE CHANCE THAT GOMR
CAN BE BROUGHT TO AGREE THAT ASSISTANCE FURNISHED BY US IS ADEQ-
UATE SUBSTITUTE FOR LAND RENT FOR NASA TRACKING STATION. END SUMMARY

1. ON RETURN TO TANANARIVE, I HAVE REVIEWED FILE ON RENEGOTIAT-
ION NASA STATION AGREEMENT AND OFFER FOLLOWING COMMENTS PRIOR TO
AMB RAHARIJAONA'S OCT 30 MEETING WITH ASST SECY NEWSOM.

2. THOUGH I CANNOT BE SURE, I HAVE FELT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE SAT-
ISFY RATSIRAKA ON LAND RENT QUESTION WITHOUT U.S. HAVING TO BE-
COME INVOLVED IN ACTUAL PAYMENT OF RENT. PARA 2, STATE 181983,
GAVE USEFUL BACKGROUND NOT PREVIOUSLY KNOWN TO US FROM EMBASSY
FILES AS TO CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH LAND RENT PROVISION INSER-
TED IN AGREEMENT AND HOW PREVIOUS GOVT WAS SATISFIED WITH AID IN
LIEU OF RENT.

3. AS WE HAVE HAD NO CONVERSATION WITH RATSIRAKA OR OTHERS IN GOMR
ON STATION AGREEMENT SINCE RECEIPT OF THAT TEL, RATSIRAKA AND
OTHERS IN PRESENT GOVT ARE COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF THIS BACKGROUND.
I AM SURE DEPT WILL WANT TO CONVEY IT TO RAHARIJAONA.

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4. IN THIS CONTEXT, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THERE IS A REASONABLE CHANCE THAT RATSIRAKA AND GOMR CAN BE BROUGHT TO AGREE THAT ASSISTANCE U.S. FURNISHING IS ADEQUATE SUBSTITUTE FOR RENT:

A. WE ARE STILL HOLDING ABOUT \$250,000 WORTH OF NASA EXCESS COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT TO BE TURNED OVER TO GOMR IN CONNECTION WITH RENEWAL OF STATION AGREEMENT. WEATHER PHOTO MACHINE REQUESTED BY MALAGASY METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE IS IN PROCESS BEING MADE AVAILABLE BY NASA STATION.

B. AID LOANS, INCLUDING PENDING RAILROAD LOAN AND PRESUMED POSSIBILITY OTHER LOANS IN FUTURE FISCAL YEARS.

C. SCHOLARSHIPS, WHICH ARE OF A PARTICULAR INTEREST TO RATSIRAKA. WE KNOW HE FELT LET DOWN ON THIS SCORE DURING HIS VISIT TO U.S. SINCE IT SEEMED CLEAR AFTER HIS RETURN THAT HE HAD NOT COMPLETELY SEIZED WHAT U.S. PREPARED MAKE AVAILABLE, WE PREPARED COMPLETE SUMMARY (COPY SENT DIGGS UNDER COVER OF MATHERON OCT 5 LETTER) AND GAVE IT TO FOREIGN OFFICE. DIRECTOR BILATERAL RELATIONS RATSIMANDRESY WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED AND REACTED QUITE POSITIVELY WHEN HE READ SUMMARY.

D. VARIOUS OFFERS OF EXIM CREDITS, GUARANTEES OR INSURANCE: LOCOMOTIVES, CFF FACILITY, AIR MADAGASCAR PILOT AND TECHNICIAN TRAINING, SURPLUS LANDING CRAFT, AND, PRESUMABLY, FOR BIG ROGEZ HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT.

E. READINESS TO FURNISH FAMILY PLANNING ASSISTANCE IF GOMR WISHES.

F. POLICE TRAINING.

5. MAJOR AREA OF GOMR INTEREST WHERE U.S. HAS FAILED TO COME THROUGH HAS BEEN ON PL-480 OR OTHER CREDITS FOR RICE PURCHASES. BUT THERE IS GOOD EXPLANATION AS TO WHY WE COULD NOT DO SO THIS YEAR, AND IN ANY CASE GOMR SEEMS GRATEFUL EVEN TO BE ABLE TO FIND RICE FOR CASH (TANANARIVE 1367).
MENDENHALL

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